

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An elevator interlock apparatus comprising:

a catch disposed on a landing entrance;

a latch disposed on a landing door so as to engage with the catch and prevent movement of the landing door in a door opening direction when the landing door is in a fully-closed state; and

a release detector ~~for detecting~~ configured to detect whether or not the latch is in a position engaged with the catch by detecting a change in a magnetic field without contacting the latch,

wherein the release detector is provided at an upper portion of the landing entrance or on a hanger case fixed to the upper portion of the landing entrance.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein~~[[:]]~~ a detected portion ~~constituted by~~ includes a magnet ~~[[is]]~~ disposed on the latch; and

wherein the release detector ~~[[has]]~~ includes a detecting portion composed of an electrically-conductive material facing the detected portion and detects the change in the magnetic field ~~by means of~~ via an electric current generated in the detecting portion.

Claim 3. (Original) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a control portion that determines a state of the latch based on a signal from the release detector and controls motion of a car.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a fully-closed-state detector ~~for detecting~~ configured to detect whether the landing door is in the fully-closed state,

wherein the control portion ~~prohibiting~~ prohibits motion of the car ~~if it is determined when the fully closed-state detector detects~~ that the landing door is in an open state and the release detector detects that engagement between the catch and the latch has been released.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the control portion permits motion of the car ~~if it is determined when the fully closed-state detector detects~~ that the landing door is in a fully-closed state even if ~~it is determined~~ the release detector detects that engagement between the catch and the latch has been released.

Claim 6. (New) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a fully-closed-state detector configured to detect whether the landing door is in the fully-closed state, and

wherein the fully-closed state detector and the release detector are each provided on the upper portion of the landing entrance or on the hanger case fixed to the upper portion of the landing entrance.

Claim 7. (New) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the fully closed-state detector is configured to detect whether the landing door is in the fully closed state regardless of whether the latch is engaged with the catch.

Claim 8. (New) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 6, further including a car which travels between a plurality of floors, and wherein each of the plurality of floors includes a landing door.

Claim 9. (New) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the fully closed-state detector of a landing door of one of the plurality of floors is configured to detect whether the landing door of the one of the plurality of floors is in the fully closed state regardless of whether the car is located at the one of the plurality of floors.

Claim 10. (New) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 6 further comprising:

a door hanger; and
a shielding plate provided to the door hanger,
wherein the door hanger moves with the landing door, and
wherein the fully close-state detector is mounted in the hanger case such that the fully closed state is detected when the shielding plate is positioned between the fully closed-stated detector and the door hanger.

Claim 11. (New) The elevator interlock apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the fully closed-state detector is an optical switch.